



Congressman Ed Pastor's Washington Update

An electronic newsletter with updates for Arizona's 7th Congressional District

February 2014

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NOTES OF INTEREST

- **Earned Income Tax Credit** available to some couples with no children. Visit www.irs.gov for information.
- **MyRA retirement savings program** announced by President Obama. This saving opportunity to help Americans secure a dignified retirement will be available to households earning up to \$191,000/year through a pilot program with employers who choose to participate in 2014.
- **Mobile Office Locations.** Congressional aides visit senior, community and veterans centers to provide services. Visit www.pastor.house.gov and click on **Mobile Locations** for details.

Congressman Ed Pastor
Representing
Arizona's Seventh
Congressional District

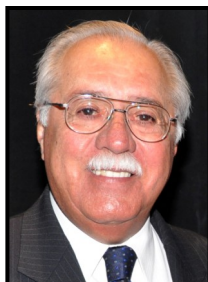
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Sign up for the E-NEWSLETTER and/or Email Ed at his Congressional website:
www.pastor.house.gov

'Year of Action' launched with passage of U.S. budget

The year began with a step in a positive direction as Congress was able to pass the government funding bill for



U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor

2014. The bill was a balanced compromise that helped us avoid another government shutdown and continue to deliver the services Americans expect from its federal government.

Some of the bill's highlights included \$8.6 billion for Head Start, new tools and re-

sources to address the backlog of veterans disability claims, and \$6.7 billion for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), sufficient to meet the expected need in 2014.

Our next step is to raise the debt limit, restore emergency unemployment insurance and invest in jobs and opportunities for all Americans.

As President Obama said in his State

of the Union address on Jan. 28, he sees 2014 as a year of action. I'm hopeful Congress will also make it a year of action so that we can address critical issues holding Americans back, such as reinstating benefits for workers who lost their unemployment insurance.

While our economy continues to recover, we cannot stand by and allow struggling families to lose this lifeline as they hunt for work. I hope my colleagues in Congress will help protect families and children and provide this much-needed benefit to Americans who so desperately need it.

We also need to finally resolve the issue of immigration reform to help put law-abiding immigrants on a path to legalization, and stop the endless attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act to allow it to do the job of providing health care for Americans who need it.

I appreciate the privilege to represent you in Congress and I look forward to hearing from you on these issues and others this year.

Initiate steps to protect your credit and identity

Recent news reports that more than one million Target store shoppers had much of their personal credit card information stolen serve as a reminder that we should all be vigilant in the protection of our credit and identity.

Individuals should keep a close eye on their account activity and follow these **suggestions from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau:**

1. Check your accounts for unauthorized charges or debits and continue monitoring your accounts.
2. Report a suspicious charge or debit immediately to your bank or card provider.
3. Submit a complaint if you have an issue with your bank or card provider's response. You may do this online at <http://www.Consumer-finance.gov/complaint/> or by

phoning **855-411-3472**.

4. Know when to ignore anyone contacting you to "verify" your account information by phone or email—a scam often called "phishing." Banks and credit unions never ask for account information through phone or email that they initiate.

FRAUD ALERTS

If you believe you've been a victim of identity theft, place a fraud alert with one of the three credit reporting companies (**Equifax** 1-800-525-6285; **Experian** 1-888-397-3742; or **TransUnion** 1-800-680-7289); order your credit reports from one of those companies; and create an identity theft report at the FTC by phoning 1-877-438-4338 (TTY 1-866-653-4261).

More information is available at www.consumer.ftc.gov.